

Occurrence of a Rare Squid, *Chaunoteuthis mollis* APPELLÖF (Family Onychoteuthidae) in the Indian Ocean

BY

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(Plate 42; 1 Text figure)

THE CEPHALOPOD FAUNA of the Indian Ocean is by far not as well investigated as that of the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans. At present there are nearly half as many species of oceanic squids (Oegopsida) known in the Indian Ocean as in the Atlantic. From the general zoogeographic conception of the richness and diversity of the Indo-West-Pacific fauna a contrary relation might be supposed. The number of species of neritic squids (Myopsida) for instance, which can be caught easier than Oegopsida and so could be better studied, is by a third as large in the Indian Ocean as in the Atlantic. Now the investigations of the Indian Ocean are intensified and so our knowledge of its fauna, and its cephalopods in particular, has increased.

Two specimens of the rare squid *Chaunoteuthis mollis* APPELLÖF, 1891, both in excellent condition, have been found in a small collection of pelagic cephalopods from stomachs of handsawfishes (*Alepisaurus* spp.), captured by Mr. V. G. Osipov of the Pacific Research Institute of Fisheries and Oceanography, Vladivostok, in the tropical eastern Indian Ocean aboard the R/V *Orlik*. So far, this species has been found only in the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea. A review of the collection and some considerations about the feeding of *Alepisaurus* and the importance of cephalopods in their food are given in another article (PARIN, NESIS & VINOGRADOV, 1969). The present paper will deal only with the description of the *Chaunoteuthis mollis* found.

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TEUTHIDA

Oegopsida

ONYCHOTEUTHIDAE

Chaunoteuthis mollis APPELLÖF, 1891

From the stomach of an *Alepisaurus* sp.: 13°00' S, 101°26' E, November 25, 1963, two specimens, both females. Dorsal mantle length (DML) of no. 1: 121 mm, of no. 2: 125 mm; total length 194 mm and 204 mm, respectively. Weight of both specimens together: 40.4 g (Plate 42, Figure 1).

The body is very soft, flabby, the skin thin, but rather firm. The mantle muscles are of gelatinous consistency. The mantle form is conical; it is widest at the anterior margin: mantle width = 45 to 46% DML. The anterior margin of the mantle shows a small blunt projection on the dorsal side and hardly visible lateral projections. The ventral margin is very slightly emarginated, nearly straight. The ventral mantle length is 96 to 98% DML. The gladius is not visible through the mantle, but there is a narrow dorsal groove over the gladius between the fins.

The fins are transversely-rhombic; their length is 46 to 49% DML, the width is 96% DML.

The head is a little narrower than the mantle, flattened dorsally; its width is 17 to 19% DML. There are some 8 nuchal folds on either side.

The eyes are big; their length is 11½ to 12% DML; the width is 10 to 10½% DML. The eyelid is circular, with a shallow sinus anteriorly. One luminous organ, long and band-like, with slightly widened edges and a narrowed middle part is situated on the ventral periphery of the



Figure 1



Figure 2

Figure 1: *Chaunoteuthis mollis* APPELLÖF. Specimen no 1
Two-thirds natural size.

Figure 2: *Chaunoteuthis mollis* APPELLÖF. Eye. An ocular photophore is seen. Three times natural size.

